

Hillside Federation Newsletter January 2019



What's Ahead for 2019?



Open space preserved by Save Coldwater Canyon!

The Roman god Janus, for whom January is named, had two faces, one looking back, the other looking forward. Let us begin by looking back on 2018.

The Federation continued its tradition of supporting a strong CEQA and fulfilling its intent. We opposed an ELDP (Environmental Leadership Development Project) designation for the new Hollywood Center project. My personal description of ELDP is the bigger the project, the smaller the review. We supported Citizens Coalition Los Angeles' request for proper CEQA review for the Target superstore in East Hollywood because of the dangerous precedent it would set. We supported a full EIS with public input for the new flight paths over the Santa Monica Mountains proposed for the Burbank Airport. Do we always get what we ask for? No. But we always try.

We supported adding trees to the Protected Tree Ordinance and strengthening the ordinance.

On the state level, the Federation opposed SB 827 (Wiener) which would have overridden local

Agenda

January 9, 2019

7:00 pm

Pinz Bowling Center, 2nd Floor
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

I. Call to Order

Presentation: Wildlife Pilot Study - Planning Department - Conni Pallini

II. Approval of minutes

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Charley Mims

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

IV. Old Business

A. Burbank Flight path over Santa Monicas update - Suellen Wagner

IV. New Business

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting February 6, 2019

Hillside Federation mission: *To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.*

planning and zoning and permitted tall buildings anywhere near transportation. We supported AB 2422 to ban rodenticides in order to protect our wildlife.

As we look forward to 2019, we see that much remains unfinished.

The Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance (ADU) has not been passed by City Council leaving Los Angeles subject to the state's lenient default rules. The Federation is still trying to get ADUs banned in hillside areas because of the limited evacuation routes and access for emergency vehicles in the event of a fire.

Although the City Planning Commission approved a well balanced Sign Ordinance in 2015, it has been stalled in PLUM where then-chair Jose Huizar attempted to grant more concessions to the sign industry.

The amended Protected Tree Ordinance has yet to be approved.

Rodenticides are still in use even in our city parks.

The Federation will remain vigilant – with your help – throughout 2019 to continue to preserve and protect our hillsides.

Holiday Party 2018

The Federation's annual Holiday Party was held Thursday, December 13 at the beautiful Mulholland Tennis Club. A little rain and wind earlier in the week produced a sparkling clear view of the entire city for our 107 guests. Los Angeles has never looked better. Guests enjoyed passed hors d'oeuvres and wine while they chatted with old friends, met new ones, and greeted local officials.

City Attorney Mike Feuer presented the Hillside Federation with a proclamation for its role in protecting the environment.

Our congressional representatives were in Washington DC trying to complete the legislative session, but their representatives attended. Congressman Ted Lieu, 33rd District, District Director Nicolas Rodriguez presented all of our awardees with certificates of recognition from the Congressman. Thank you, Congressman Lieu! Congressman Adam Schiff, 28th District, sent his District Representative Mike Aguilera.

Councilmember David Ryu and his Senior Deputy Alice Roth presented a proclamation to his colleague and honoree Paul Koretz.

Paul Edelman and Wendy-Sue Rosen represented the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Dash Stolarz represented the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. Senior Field Deputy Fernando Morales represented Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.

Chairman Marian Dodge recognized ordinary people doing extraordinary things, our members who are working hard on local issues: Friends of Runyon - Don Andres and Stacy Sillins; Laurel Canyon Land Trust - Jamie Hall; Studio City Residents Association and Save LA River Open Space - Alan Dymond and Beth Dymond; Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife - Tony Tucci and Andrew Lasken; Benedict Canyon Association - Nickie Miner; LA Area Helicopter Noise Coalition - Gerry Hans; Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight/Scenic America LA - Marian Dodge, John Given; Argyle Civic Association - Cheryl Gaskill; Linda Whitford who is fighting for protected trees.

After a delicious gourmet buffet dinner and lots of schmoozing, Federation President Charley Mims presented trophies to each of our honorees.

Welcome New Member
Organization!

Argyle Civic Association

Councilmember Paul Koretz was honored for his years of commitment to the environment and to the preservation of open space. Koretz is the only councilmember to have a Director of Environmental Affairs, Andy Shrader. Together they have been invaluable in proposing legislation to protect the environment. Koretz has also worked to establish wildlife corridors in the hillside areas. He is working to get a ban on rodenticides, which kill all wildlife, not just rats. His biodiversity motion is creating policy for all city departments to work together to preserve and enhance the city's biodiversity.

Koretz' long history on environmental protection has included: Ridgeline ordinance; plastic bag ban; As a MWD board member, he established \$350 million in rebates for turf removal at the height of the drought; established DWP watershed approach standards for turf removal rebates; created the first Climate Emergency Mobilization Department (CEMD); set the City Council's greenhouse gas emissions targets (though now woefully inadequate and replaced by CEMD); first Councilmember to push for DWP off coal power and off gas power; instrumental in closing down the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant.

The Councilmember reminded us that he has more years in office so we can expect him to continue his fine work.

Save Coldwater Canyon! Sarah Boyd, Suellen Wagner, Heidi Mackay

This organization, led by an intrepid group that includes many women, took on the task of protecting an oak woodland across the street from Harvard-Westlake School from being turned into a multi-story parking lot with a lighted sports field on top. They organized and fired up the community. They got story poles placed around the project site so that neighbors could visualize the mass and scale of the project and how detrimental it would have been to the environment. They brought the press out to hearings. They rallied the troops at neighborhood council meetings. In the end they convinced Harvard-Westlake School and local politicians that the site they had chosen was not appropriate for their parking structure.

Friends of Griffith Park - Marian Dodge, President & board

In 2005 the city proposed a master plan for Griffith Park that would have heavily commercialized the park and built several multi-story parking lots. Park lovers protested and forced the city to convene a Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group. While the Working Group was busy writing a new master plan, several members realized that while many special areas of the park like the Zoo and the Observatory had friends support groups, there was no group to represent the park as a whole, no one to speak for hikers, picnickers, cyclists, dog walkers, or baby strollers. FoGP formed in 2010. FoGP fought to preserve the only group picnic area in the park and a 200-year-old sycamore tree from becoming two ball fields. They initiated the Griffith Park Natural History Survey and conducted a series of scientific studies of the park's wildlife and wildflowers. They work with Rec & Parks to mitigate the heavy traffic around the Observatory. They paid to remove a graffiti-covered abandoned water tank and get Rec & Parks to take out the other abandoned tanks. They hired landscape preservationists to prepare a quarter of a million dollar study on how to restore Fern Dell to its former glory. The repair of the Fern Dell pedestrian bridge is to begin soon.

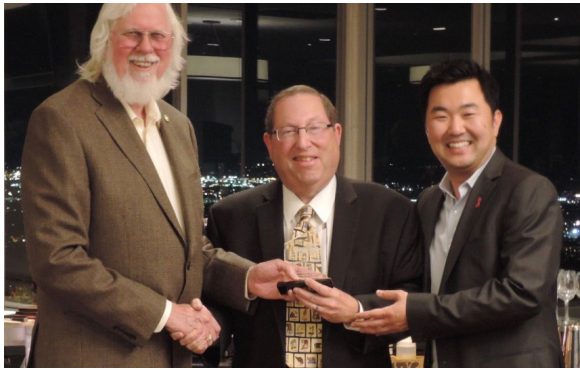
Congratulations to all our honorees!

Vice President Mark Stratton thanked Andrea of Torelli Trattoria for donating the wine for the Federation party. Andrea has just opened a new restaurant at 7469 Melrose Avenue at Gardner and was unable to attend the party to be thanked in person. You can stop in and thank him.

Treasurer Don Andres thanked the staff of the Mulholland Tennis Club for their fantastic service and meal. He also thanked Mel Remba, Federation member and Mulholland Tennis Club member, who was our official host for the party.

The biggest thank you of all must go to Don Andres. He is the one who makes all the arrangements with the Mulholland Tennis Club. He keeps track of RSVP's, accepts your payments, organizes the guest list and the program, prints name badges, and figures out seating assignments. It's a huge task and he does a magnificent job. Many, many thanks, Don.

Holiday Party



Charley Mims presents trophy to CM Koretz.
CM David Ryu



CM Paul Koretz, his wife and staff at CD 5



Honoring Save Coldwater Canyon!



Honoring Friends of Griffith Park



Mark Stratton, Don Andres, CM Paul Koretz, Charley Mims, John Given, CM David Ryu, Marian Dodge



CMs Paul Koretz and David Ryu presented Friends of Griffith Park President Marian Dodge with a city proclamation.



Nickie Miner was one of many guests to chat with City Attorney Mike Feuer.



Congressman Ted Lieu's District Director Nicolas Rodriquez presented CM Paul Koretz and other awardees with certificates of Congressional recognition.



CMs Koretz and Ryu with Save Coldwater Canyon!



Chair Emeritus Alan Kishbaugh with new members from Argyle Civic, Don Andres, and Stacy Sillins.



Your Hillside Federation Executive Committee: President Charley Mims, Treasurer Don Andres, Chair Marian Dodge, VP Mark Stratton, VP John Given, Secretary Stephen Benson.

**Hillside Federation
November 7, 2018
Draft Minutes**

I. Call to Order

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm and welcome new member Argyle Civic Association. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of minutes

The October minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Charley Mims, Marian Dodge

The Federation asked Caltrans to submit an amicus brief regarding the Millennium project; however our request was denied.

The Planning Department will give a special presentation on their Wildlife Pilot Study to the Federation in January. They are presenting it tonight at the American Jewish University.

Fix the City has settled its lawsuit with the developer of the 229-unit project at 8150 Sunset Bl. Townscape Partners will contribute \$4,000 to a fire station in Hollywood. The developer must install pedestrian safety traffic signals. The City will have to conduct a public hearing regarding the change of street alignment that would eliminate the existing eastbound right turn lane at Sunset and Crescent Heights.

The California Public Utilities Commission is seeking stakeholder guidance on the Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

The members voted to move the January meeting from Jan. 2 to Jan. 9.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

The Federation currently has 41 paid members.

Don encouraged all to attend the Holiday Party on December 13.

The January meeting will be held the PINZ VIP room.

IV. Old Business

A. Hollywood Center Project (Millennium) - Cheryl Gaskill

Argyle Civic Assn. is discussing the next steps in opposing the project. Mindy in the Planning Dept. is now handling the project. Cheryl has created a time line of the project starting with Millennium. In spite of letters recommending against, it was approved for ELDP (Environmental Leadership Development Project) fast tracking which has some serious implications. The information about the earthquake fault line running under the Millennium project didn't get submitted in time to be considered by the first judge. The developer is preparing the DEIR. They have conducted the Scoping meeting.

B. Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) - Charley Mims

The ADU Ordinance goes to the City Planning Commission on November 29. Write lots of letters and attend the hearing to speak. Kit Paull commented that LA County prohibits ADUs in hillsides and on roads under 24 feet wide.

C. Mission Canyon Park update - Mark Stratton

The Initial Study/MND did not adequately address traffic and other issues. The letter from the Federation requesting a full EIR provided powerful support for the community. The MND was withdrawn. A new MND with more accurate, in-depth analysis of impacts has been promised. The public entrance and parking lot off Mulholland will be eliminated from their plans. The Sepulveda entrance will be reconsidered/redesigned. They are requesting that the City do a comprehensive traffic study on the entire Mulholland Corridor.

IV. New Business

A. Burbank Flight Path over Santa Monicas - Suellen Wagner

NexGen is the new GPS-guided technology being used by the FAA instead of radar. Planes used to complete turns north of 101. The FAA shifted the path and moved it south over Studio City and Sherman Oaks. Congressman Adam Schiff had the FAA do a study which confirmed that the path was moved without public knowledge. The airport serves 180 planes/day.

The new wait area is 1622 feet above ground over an elementary school and passes over the Buckley School. The path is 1/2 mile wide flying at lower altitude. Neighbors are supported by Brad Sherman and Paul Krekorian. Sen. Feinstein's representative attended the workshop. They had a good meeting with MRCA today.

MOTION: The Hillside Federation will make official comment to FAA (via web portal) to oppose any Burbank concentrated departure path that traverses the Santa Monica Mountain hillside communities and public park lands. Further, state that FAA must complete full Environmental Impact Study prior to any plans to publish or implement these paths, and should extend public comment, now scheduled to end November 18, to ninety (90) days. The motion passed.

Announcement:

Steve Twining and Nickie Miner - CM Koretz came out opposing the Retreat at Benedict Canyon hotel although the developer is reportedly still going forward with the project.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Next meeting Holiday Party - December 13, 2018

Stephen Benson
Secretary

Members in Attendance:

Argyle Civic Assn	Cheryl Gaskill
Beachwood Cyn	F. Isabelle Megginson
Bel Air Hills Assn	Steve Twining
Bel Air Knolls POA	Mike Antin
Bel Air Skycrest POA	Mark Stratton
Benedict Cyn Assn	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills HOA	John Given
Cahuenga Pass POA	Steven Kates
Franklin/Hlywd Bl	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res Assn	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell Civic	Mary Ledding
Kagel Cyn Civic Assn	Kit Paull
Laurel Cyn Assn	Cathy Wayne
Los Feliz Impmt Assn	Marian Dodge
Nichols Cyn Assn	Julie Kremkus

Oaks HOA	Bob Young
Res. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Save Coldwater Cyn	Suellen Wagner
Studio City Res Assn	Claudia Freedle
Upper Nichols Cyn NA	Joan Cashel

GUESTS:

Dixie Canyon Assn.	Kris Stieg
	Edward Stieg

Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization has an issue to bring to the Federation, please complete the Request for Action form (available on the website www.hillsidefederation.org) with documentation and send it to president@hillsidefederation.org no later than 10 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently.

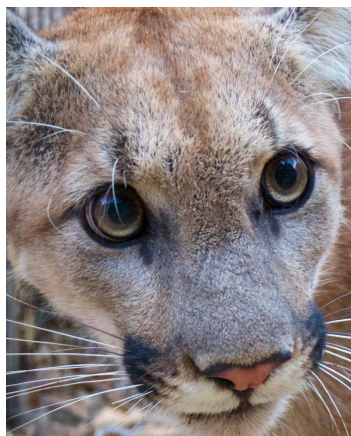
Web Site

The Hillside Federation web site is, www.hillsidefederation.org.

One of the things we want to do is have live links to the web sites of all our member organizations. Please send us the link to your association's web site. In return, we ask that you post a link to the Hillside Federation web site on your web site.

You may also visit the web site for letters on positions taken by the Federation and past newsletters and minutes.

Tragic Losses



National Park Service

2018 was a devastating year for California in terms of wildfires. We saw unprecedented loss of life and homes and our situation is now being described as the new norm. Most of our members

One exception appears to be the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness. After a massive fire in 1993, Topanga Canyon residents organized to reduce the chance of losses from another such fire. They also have an Arson Watch, a Community Emergency Response Team, and a Fire Safe Council. So far all Fire Safe Councils are in LA County territory; none are in the city of Los Angeles.

The Woolsey fire burned about 88% of the wildlife habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Initial reports about the fate of our mountain lions was confusing. The National Park Service reported that they had not located several lions; however that only meant the biologists had been unable to get out in the field to use telemetry to pick up signals from the lions' collars. Fairly quickly biologists were able to locate alive all of the animals they are tracking, coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions – all except one. P-74 was a sub-adult male. NPS biologist Seth Riley reported that the last signal from P-74's collar was on November 9 the day the fire came through his area. They have been unable to locate any trace of him and he is presumed dead.

Riley was also concerned about P-64. Although he was moving around and alive he was not moving very much. P-64 had been dubbed the Culvert Cat because he had learned to cross under the 101 freeway through a long dark culvert. He had safely crossed freeways an astonishing 41 times, something other cats had not done. When his GPS tracker stopped biologist Jeff Sikich went searching for him. All four of his paws had been badly burned making it difficult for him to move and to hunt.

Fire is a reality that we should all prepare for and be vigilant.

organizations live in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

The Los Angeles Times has analyzed wildfire hazards throughout California and written several articles on the problem recently. The most dangerous areas are where cities interface with rocky terrain such as the Santa Monica Mountains. That's our own backyards. The list identified 114,000 structures in Los Angeles at the highest risk. Maps analyzing fire risk were created by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Those maps were uncomfortably accurate for the town of Paradise.

The maps show where building codes and zoning should be modified to mitigate fire danger, upgrades should be made to existing homes, evacuation plans should be developed. Yet in spite of the analysis, little seems to have been done to reduce fire risk.

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org	ORGANIZATIONS Argyle Civic Assn. Beachwood Canyon Bel Air Association Bel-Air Hills Association Bel Air Knolls Property Owners Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners Benedict Canyon Association Brentwood Hills Homeowners Brentwood Residents Coalition Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Canyon Back Alliance CASM-SFV Crests Neighborhood Assn. Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W. Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.	Hollywood Heights Assn. Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn. Lake Hollywood HOA Laurel Canyon Assn. Los Feliz Improvement Assn. Mt. Olympus Property Owners Mt. Washington Homeowners Nichols Canyon Assn. N. Beverly Dr/Franklin Canyon Oak Forest Canyon Assn. Oaks Homeowners Assn. Outpost Estates Homeowners Residents of Beverly Glen Save Coldwater Canyon! Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HO Assn. Silver Lake Heritage Trust	Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn. CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Steve Twining CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM Brian Moore Gordon Murley Polly Ward
PRESIDENT Charley Mims			
CHAIRMAN Marian Dodge			
VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton John Given			
TREASURER Don Andres			
SECRETARY Stephen Benson			